Sanda Lum

Illustrated
by
Boom Maxwell

Katherina Giselle

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About the Author

Sanda Lum is an Australian primary school teacher. Sanda values her conscience and her children as her utmost priority. She lives in Sydney with her daughter. When she is not preoccupied with reading, writing, and teaching, she spends time cooking her daughter's favourite dishes and talking about going on adventurous trips with her daughter. Sanda made her debut as an author with *Katherina Giselle*.

For Mim and Boom

A big thank you to my son, Boom Maxwell, for drawing the book cover and the illustrations. I am very grateful to my daughter, Mim, for enthusiastically reading the many drafts of the manuscript and encouraging me to complete it.

It was the gloomiest of skies,
on the longest of hikes,
Katherina took a detour
into the long winding road.

It was so stormy that the wind hollered.
The howling wind pushed her forward
past London Tower.
She heard Big Ben chime at the 8th hour.

But Katherina
was a valiant teacher.
She was strong and shrewd.
There was not a role she could not take.
Thus, she was on her way
to a promising interview inside
the Prestigious Prominent School.

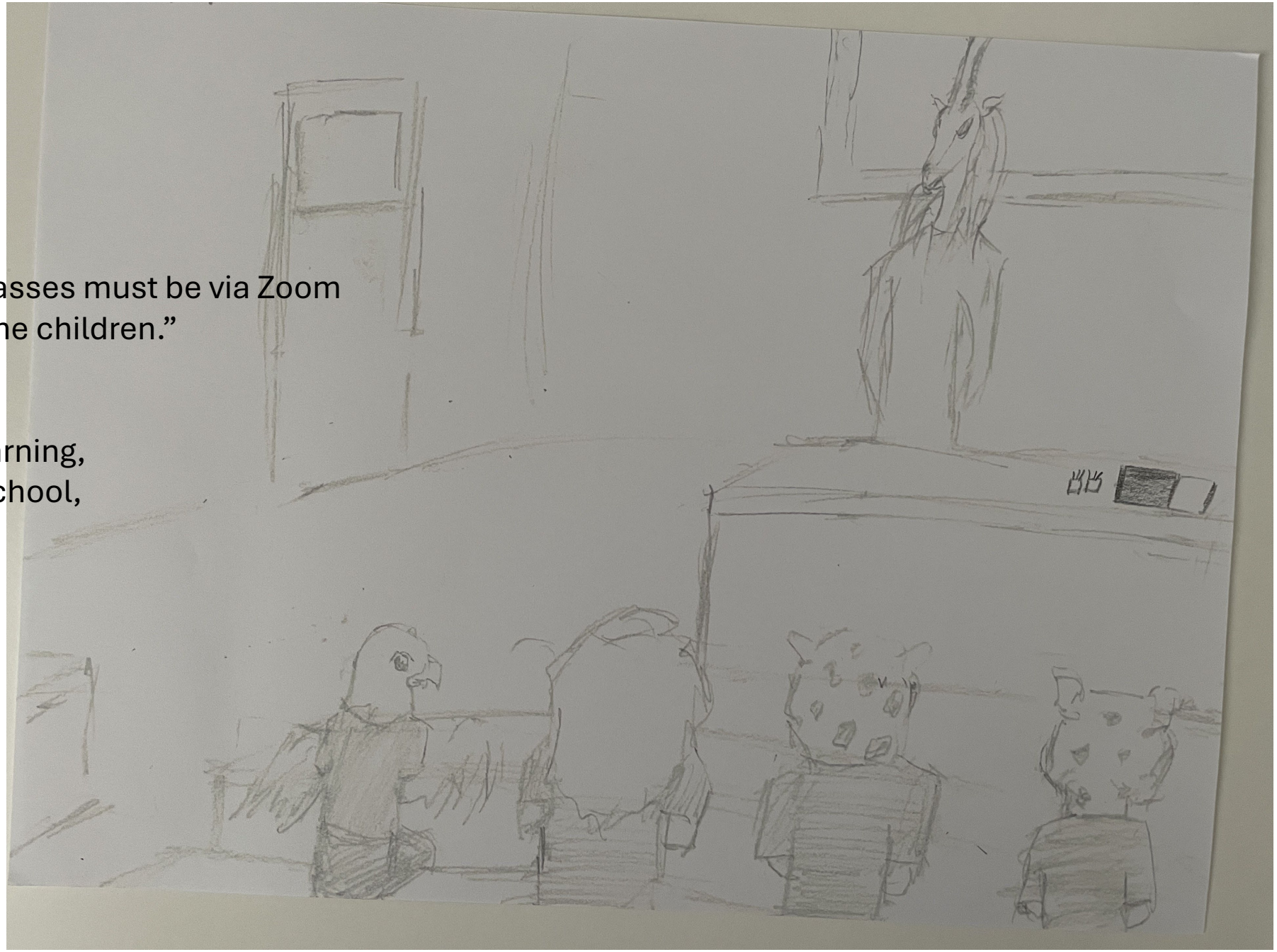
The interviewers were proud, rather grand and eccentric,
and the Principal lion wore a bedazzled black robe of the finest silk.
He held a folder as thick as an ancient encyclopaedia
and the principal told her this...

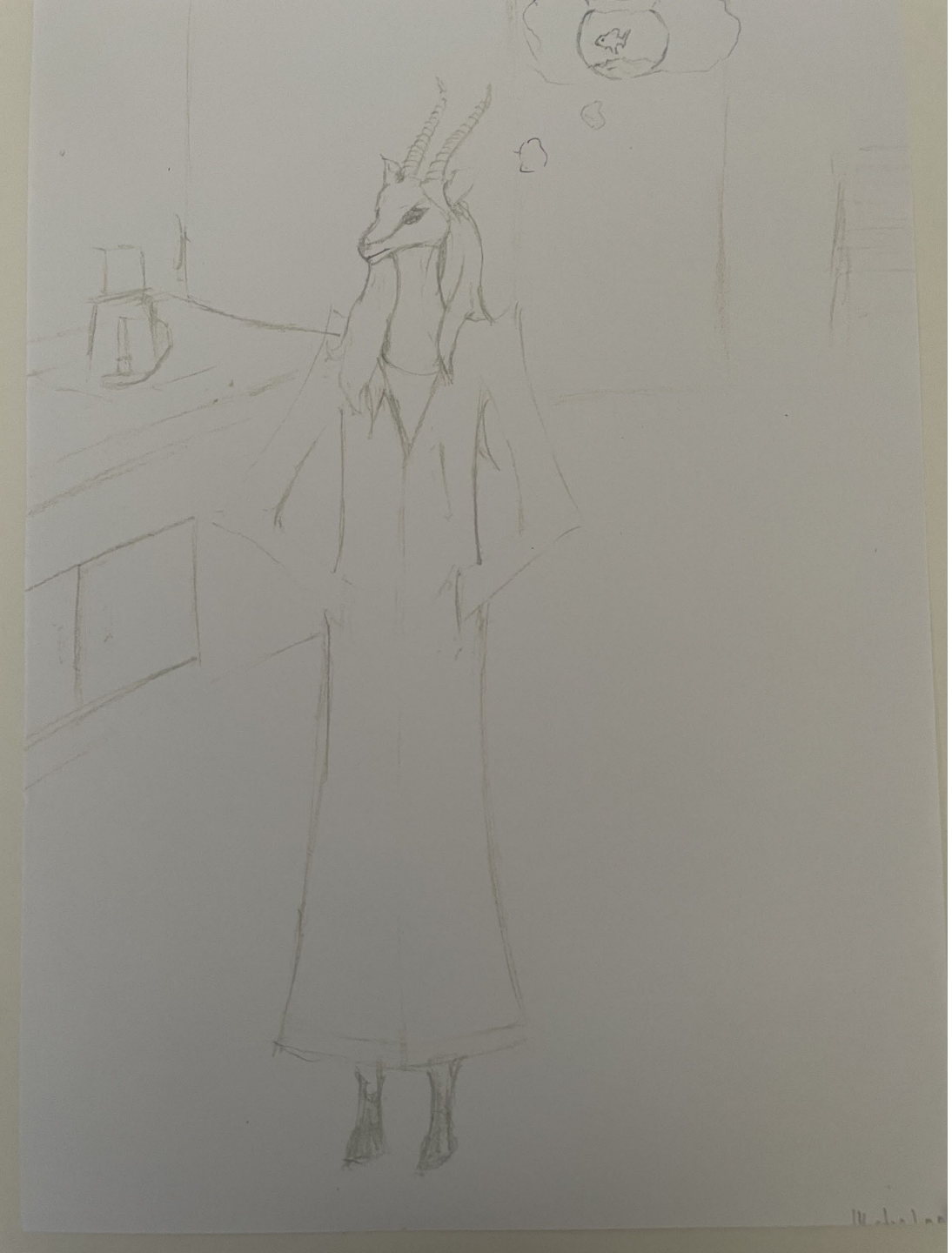
“At the Prestigious Prominent School,
teachers must have a readymade expertise pool.
You must be committed unlimitedly,
and you must teach what you are told to teach.”
“You must not teach other ideas.
You must not speak to the medias.
You need to follow my instructions.
You should just obey!
Otherwise, you might lose your foothold.”

“And the school’s dedicated
to uphold knowledge for the educated,
for the legendary, the gifted
and the wealthiest!”

“This is your classroom,
during a COVID-19 lockdown, classes must be via Zoom
with the cubs, the eaglets, and the children.”

Hence, morning after morning,
with the upliftiest of spiritual yearning,
Katherina went to teach at the school,
and it seemed somewhat cool.





She didn’t teach other things at all.
She didn’t let any results fall.
She didn’t see anyone from outside the school.

She no longer wrote to the editor of the Truly Newspaper,
nor to the TV show about the Beaver Caper.

She didn’t question the elitists all along.

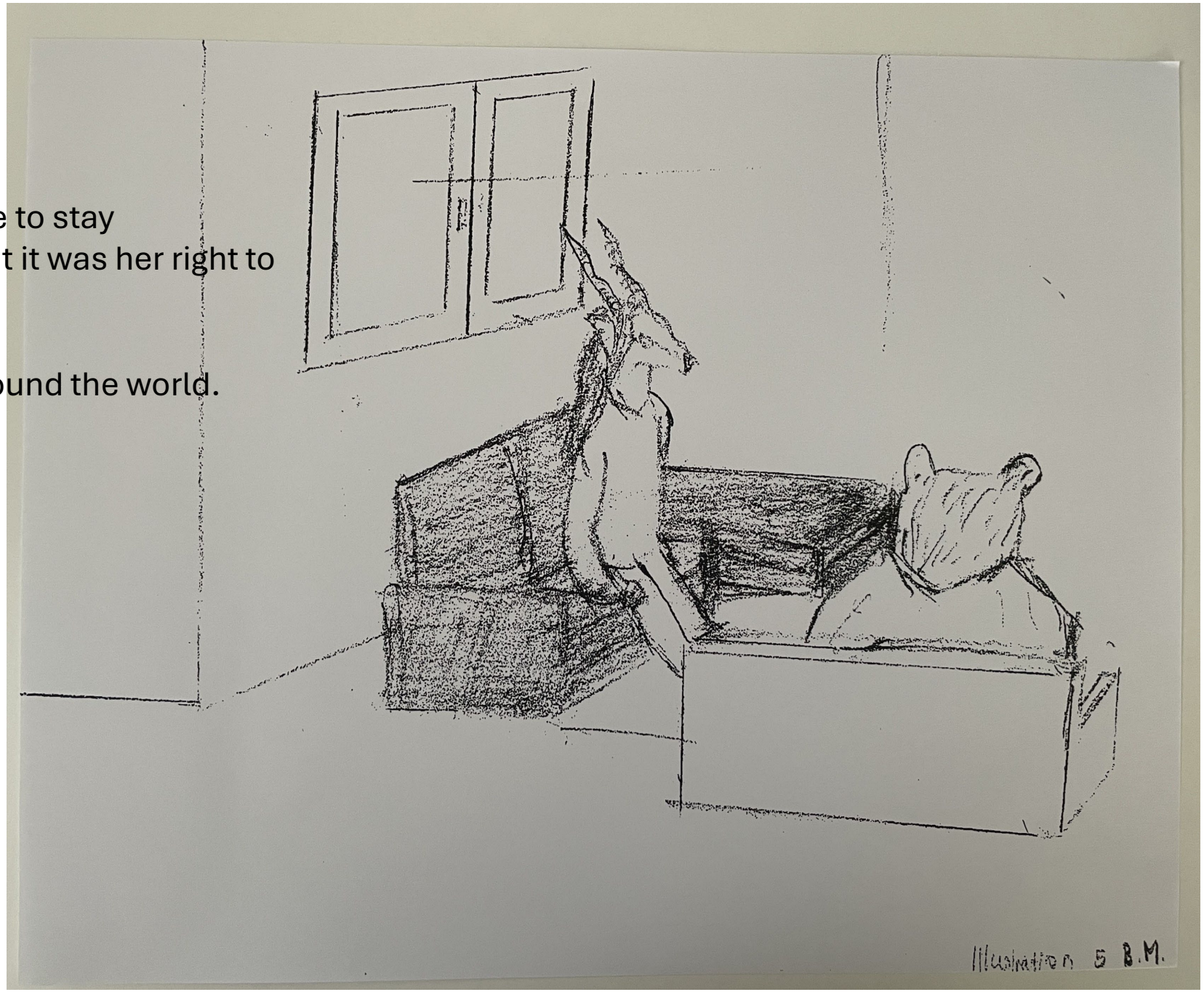
Term after term,
she worked at the ridiculously rigid place.
It was as regal as Buckingham Palace.

Katherina did the right thing,
every time she did something.

Also, after each workday,
she kept herself at bay.
Katherina ensured
that her lessons just focused on the top topics.

In addition, she reflected on her work at
the Prestigious Prominent School.
She felt as if she belonged to the school as a goldfish belonged in its fishbowl.

Until one stunningly sunny day
when her American friend Bear came to stay
for a short visit and reminded her that it was her right to write
about her creative thoughts
and share them with friends from around the world.



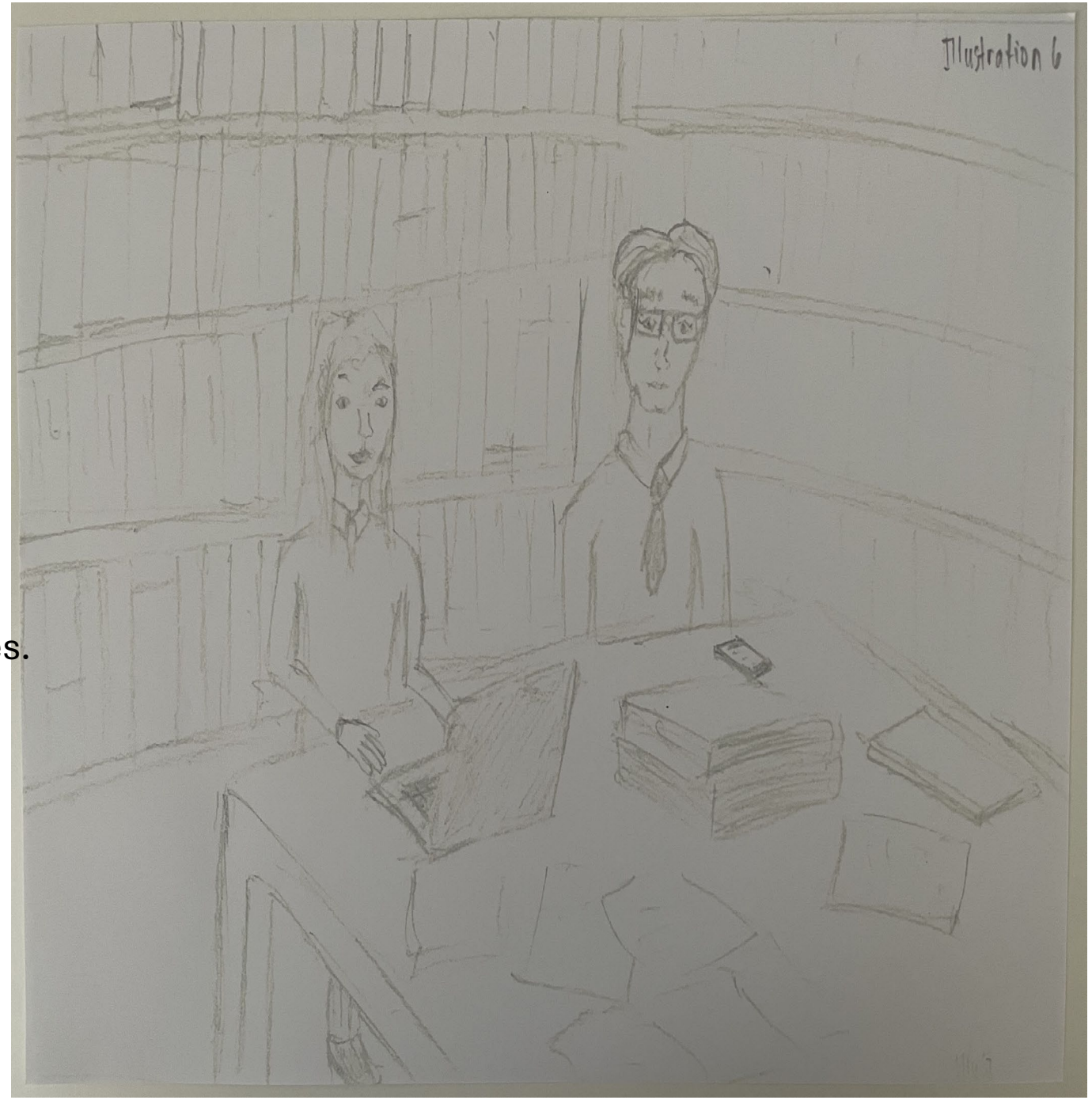
At home, she got herself a MacBook, printing papers, a printer and then...

She typed up her thoughts and ideas.

She transformed her words into stories.

She posted and emailed them to her friends who studied histories.

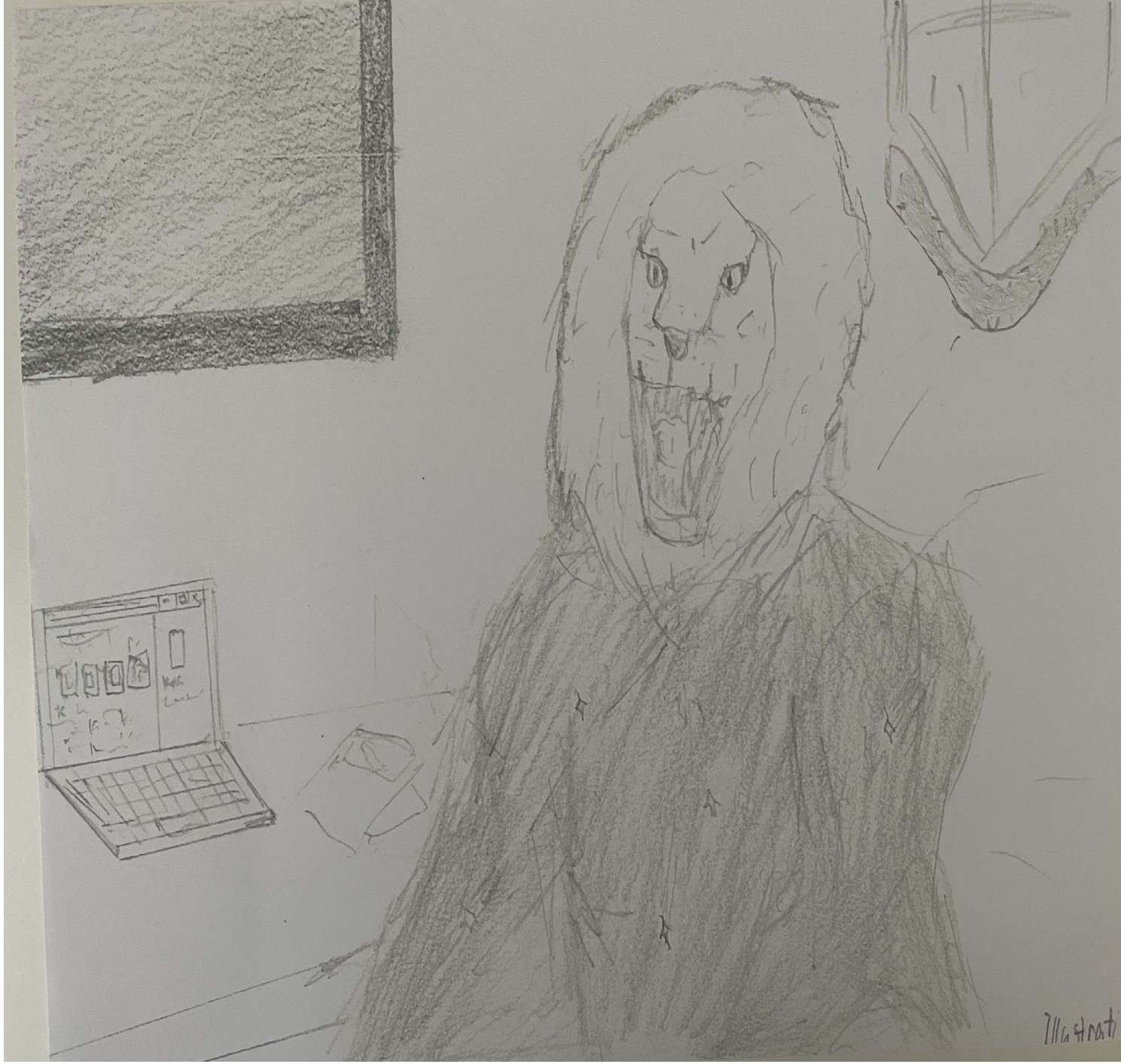
And they were delighted with Katherina’s new stories.



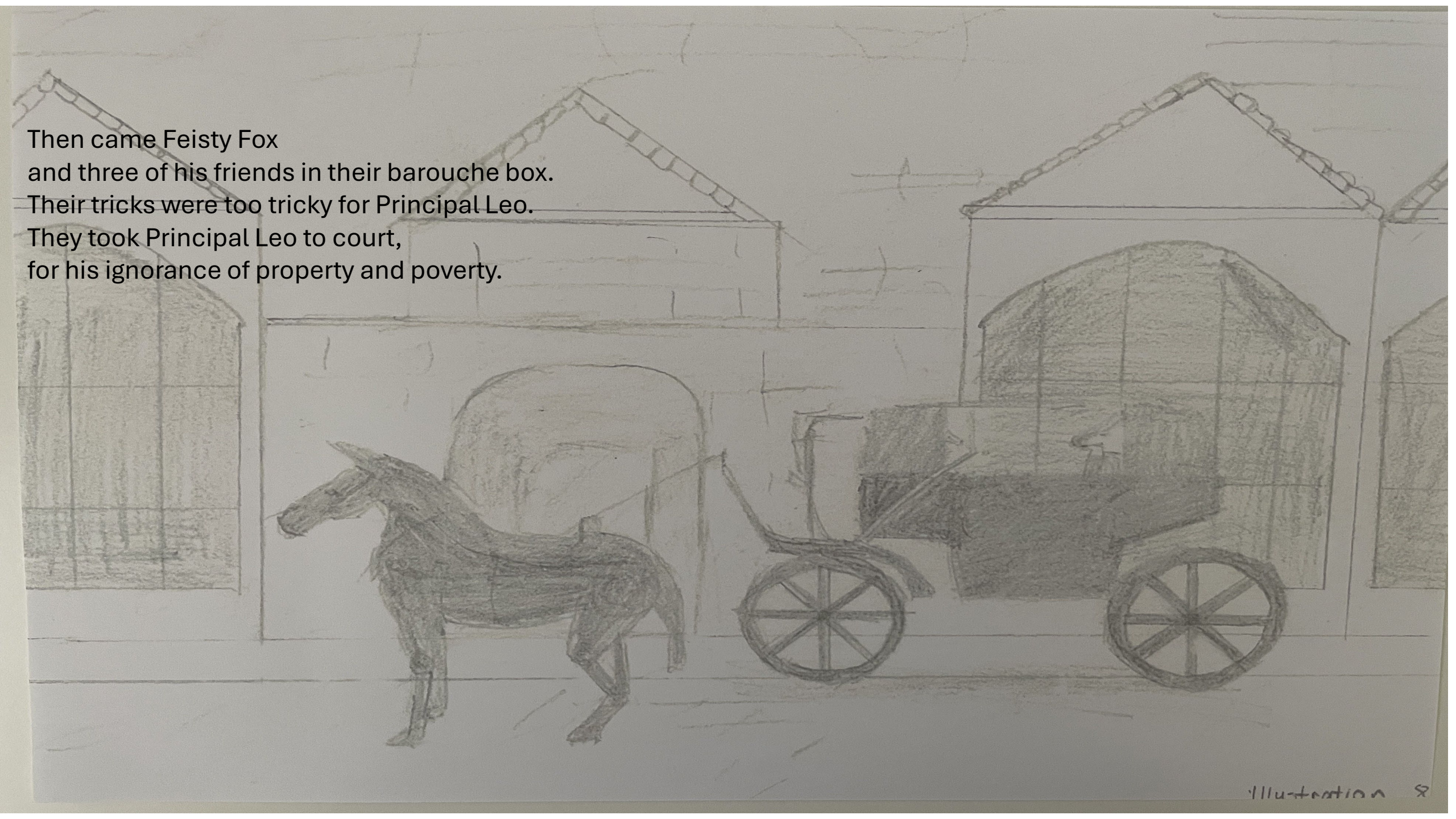
She became the bestselling fantasy author within three months,
as her ideas were equanimously equal and accessible.

Principal Leo discovered Katherina’s stories through google.

He soon told her that he would send her out to zoogle between joblessness and writing.

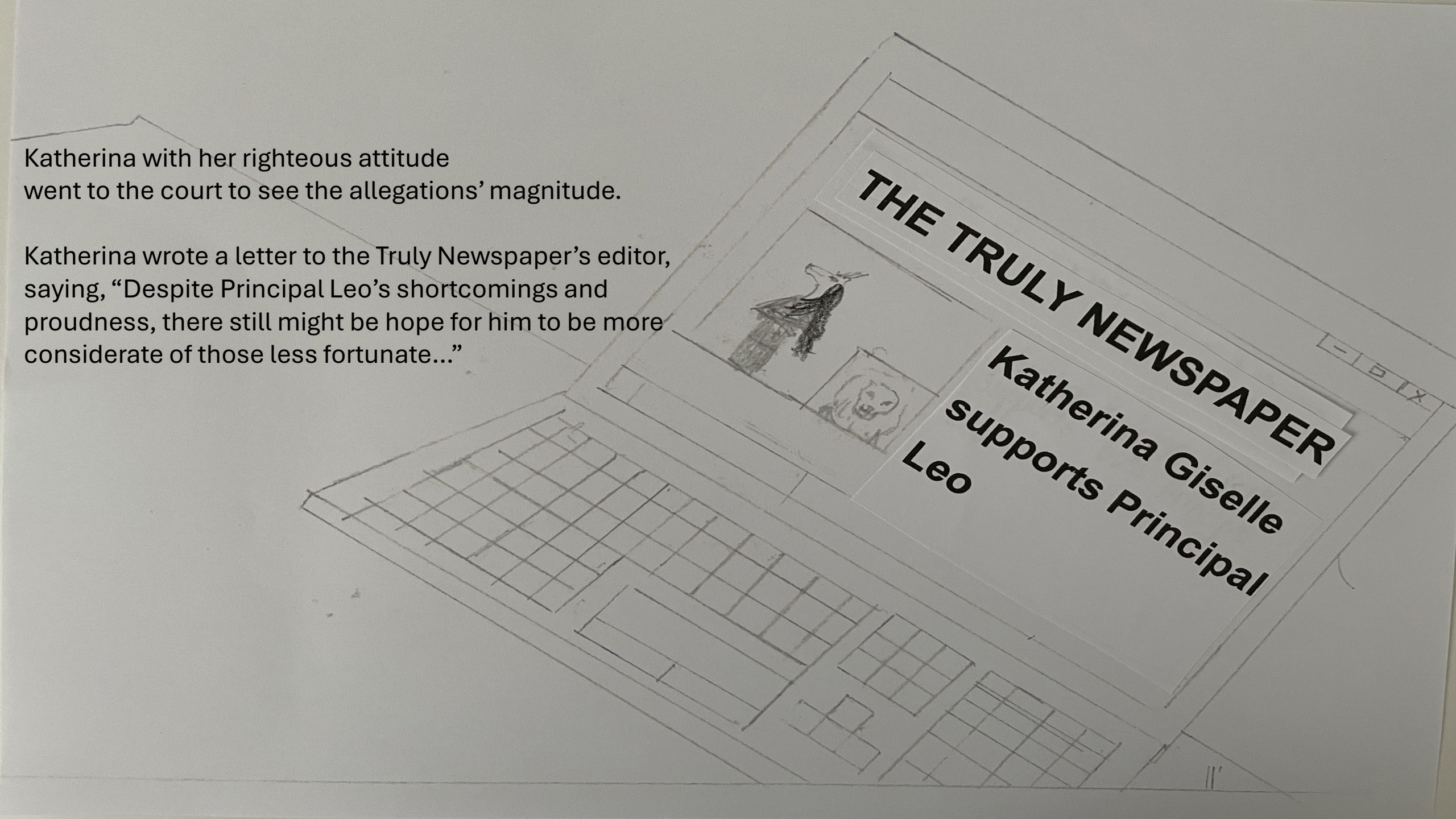


Then came Feisty Fox
and three of his friends in their barouche box.
Their tricks were too tricky for Principal Leo.
They took Principal Leo to court,
for his ignorance of property and poverty.



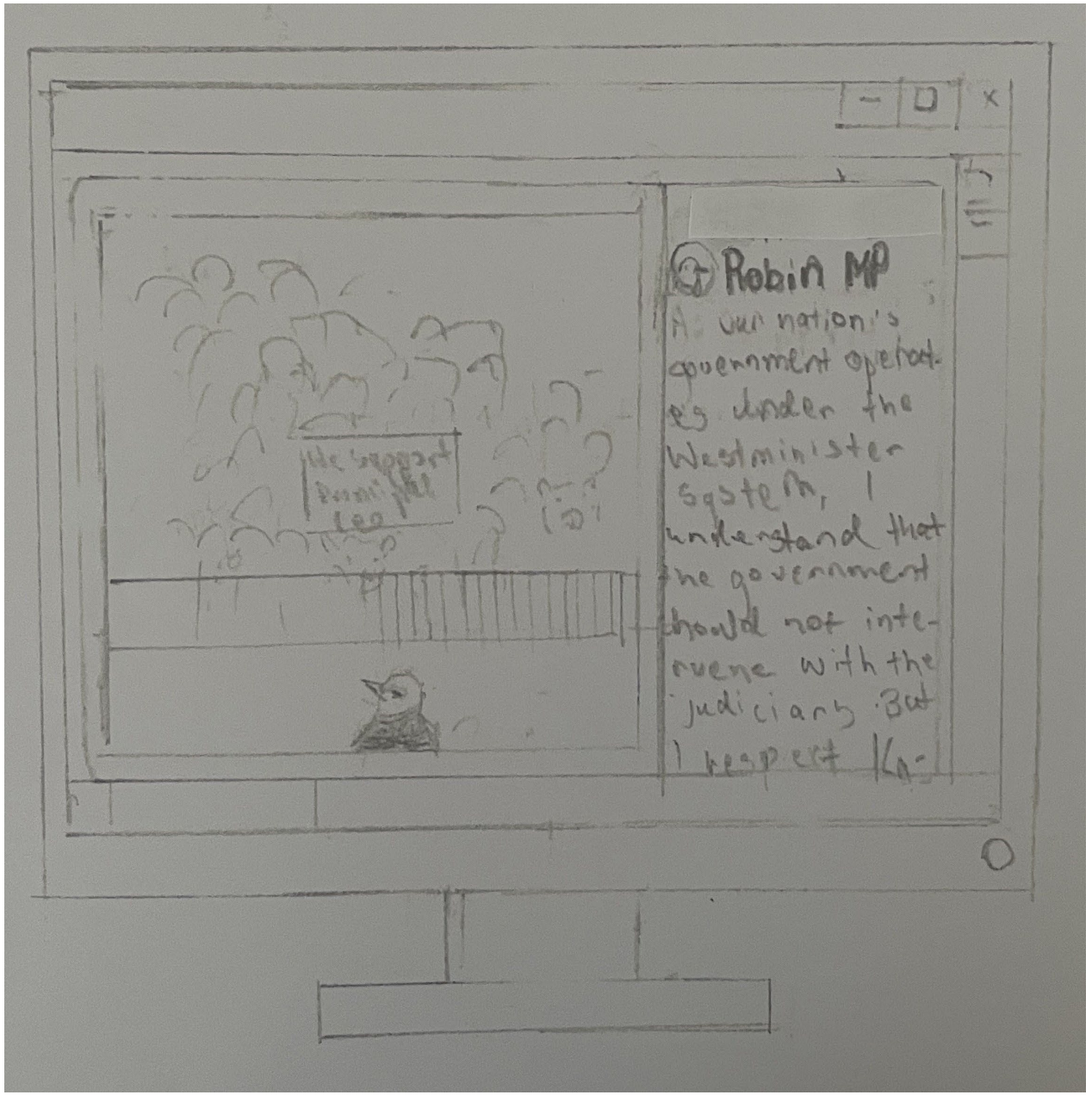
Katherina with her righteous attitude
went to the court to see the allegations' magnitude.

Katherina wrote a letter to the Truly Newspaper's editor,
saying, "Despite Principal Leo's shortcomings and
proudness, there still might be hope for him to be more
considerate of those less fortunate..."

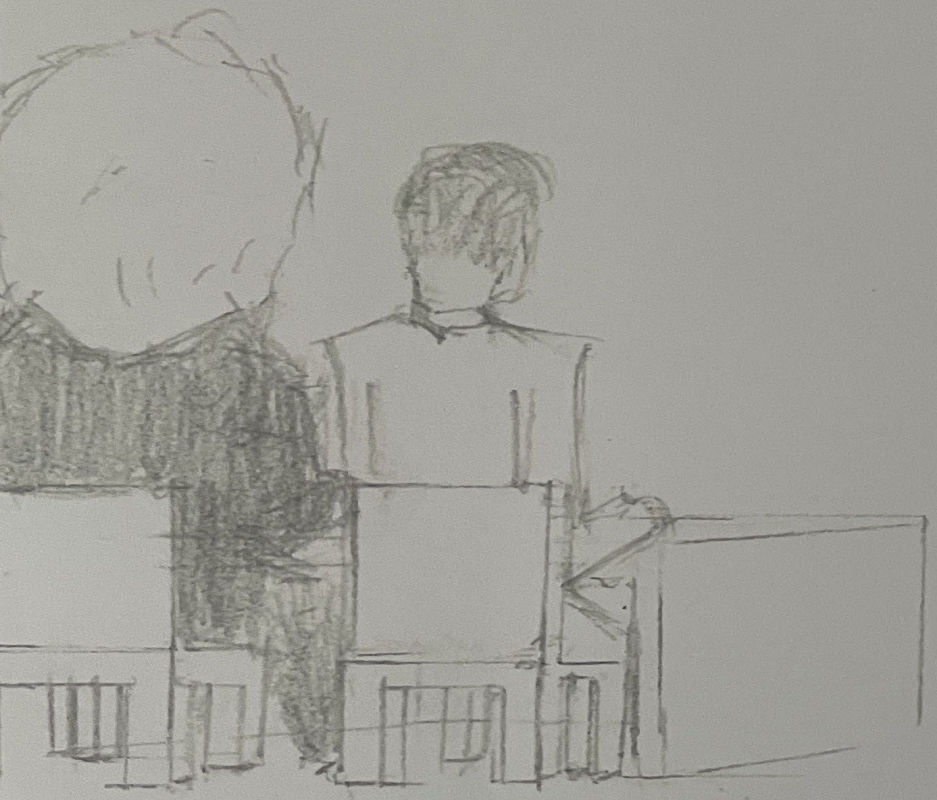


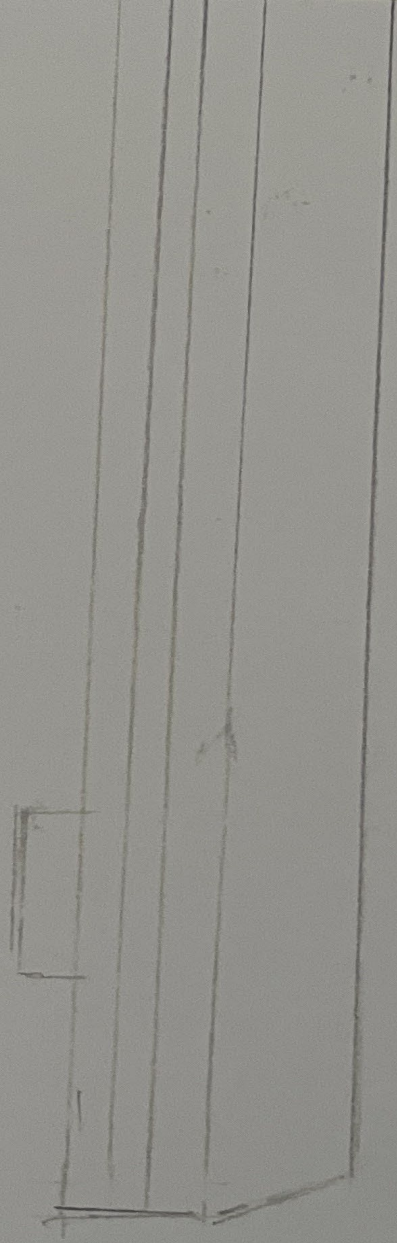
Her words were shared like a viral post.
So, the messages travelled coast to coast.

Even Prime Minister Robin tweeted,
“As our nation’s government operates under the Westminster system, I understand that the government shouldn’t intervene with the judiciary. But I respect Katherina’s opinions in relation to giving Principal Leo a second chance.”



Katherina’s supporters rallied to help her save Principal Leo from Feisty Fox the trickster and his friends.
The wise Justice Owl dismissed the case.





Principal Leo was so grateful.
He realised that Katherina was so powerful.
He renamed the Prestigious Prominent School
after Katherina Giselle.
He bought many creative resources for the school.
And he funded abundant opportunities for those in need.

He invited Katherina to visit the school sometime,
as Katherina became busy travelling in time
around the world reading, writing and lecturing
all about fantasy, creativity and equality
using her essence of courage.